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E1

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(D), B6

ACTION AID-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	ACE-00
	USIE-00	ECA-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/000W

-----F28529 261456Z /38

R 261408Z FEB 04  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5103  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 000634

NSC FOR CBARTON  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
USAID DCHA/OTI FOR RPORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2013  
TAGS: PREL, PROP, VE  
SUBJECT: CHAVEZ ACCUSES USG OF FUNDING "COUPMONGERS"

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABELARDO A. ARIAS FOR REASONS 1.4 (B)  
) AND (D)

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SUMMARY  
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1. (C) During his February 8 and 15 "Alo, Presidente" broadcasts, President Chavez accused the USG of supporting opposition efforts to oust him by funneling \$60,000 to the NGO Sumate and millions more to assist other opposition groups.

End Summary.

2. (U) During his February 8 "Alo, Presidente" broadcast, President Chavez accused the USG of supporting opposition efforts to oust him by funneling \$60,000 to the NGO Sumate

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and also announced he would provide proof that the USG is spending millions of dollars to assist other opposition groups. Emboffs confirmed that the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) approved a grant to Sumate for \$53,400 in September 2003 to work on referendum and general electoral activities. On February 15, Chavez referred to free-lance journalist Jeremy Bigwood's FOIA request to the CIA on Sumate, and the CIA's subsequent refusal to confirm or deny that it possessed such information, as proof that the NED is a funding arm of the CIA for Venezuelan opposition groups. During the same broadcast, Chavez asked the Solicitor General to analyze Sumate's original funding request to determine if it included grounds for charging the NGO with treason.

3. (U) During the February 8 broadcast, Chavez also mentioned the National Assembly of Educators (ANE) as one recipient of NED funding, claiming it was associated with the opposition party Democratic Action (AD). He also asserted that Democratic Coordinator spokesman Jesus Torrealba is ANE's director. ANE spokesperson Leonardo Carvajal explained that the organization most recently received NED funds between 2001 and 2002, according to a February 9 news report. Carvajal also denied that the ANE is associated with AD, saying that "no ANE board director belongs to any political party," though he indicated the ANE had been linked with the MAS party during 1975-1988. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and ANE is a member of the Democratic Coordinator.)

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COMMENT  
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5.

Allegations similar to

Chavez' comments appear on the website  
www.venezuelafoia.info, "...devoted to investigating US  
meddling in Venezuela." The website includes the Bigwood  
FOIA request, the CIA's response, and names the NED as a  
Sumate grantor. The website also concludes that NED has

exclusively supported various opposition groups with grants  
totaling more than \$800,000 and thereby contributed to the  
country's political destabilization.  
SHAPIRO

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